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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HILLERY, NATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/756,642	Applicant(s) RANK ET AL.	
	Examiner Nathan Hillery	Art Unit 2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 60-79 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 60-79 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Election filed on 6/30/06.
2. Claims 60 – 79 are pending in the case. Claims 60 and 70 are independent.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submissions filed on 2/8/06 and 4/12/06 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 60 – 65, 68, 70 – 75, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Richards (US 6292810 B1).

6. **Regarding independent claim 60**, Richards teaches that a series of decision blocks are used to test the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address compared to the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells (Column 82, lines 10 – 12), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record**, since **cell data location information** is equivalent to “the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address” and “the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells” is equivalent to **a first grid record**.

Richards teaches that in decision block 2879 the index of one indicates that cells are being moved left for the selected range (Column 82, lines 12 and 13), which meet the limitation of **if the cell data location information is contained in the first grid record, determining the cell data location information from the first grid record**;

Richards teaches that the row value set by the row loop of decision block 2883 is compared with the first and last row selected, R1 and R2, and the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the last column minus the column offset (Column 82, lines 13 – 17), which meet the limitation of **determining the location of cell data corresponding to the spreadsheet file cell in a cell data record based on the cell data location information**;

Richards teaches that if the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted (Column 82, lines 17 – 19), which meet the limitation of **extracting the cell data from the cell data record**.

7. **Regarding dependent claim 61**, Richards teaches that some of the cells processed will not be cleared, i.e., cells not on the outer edge. Therefore, a series of decision blocks are used (Column 82, lines 7 – 10), which meet the limitation of **if the cell data location information is not contained in the first grid record, determining whether the cell data location information is contained in a second grid record, since “the outer edge” is equivalent to a second grid record**

8. **Regarding dependent claim 62**, Richards teaches that cell attribute is any property, quality, or characteristic that can be ascribed to a cell (Column 19, lines 14 and 15), which meet the limitation of **determining from a property record property information of the spreadsheet file.**

9. **Regarding dependent claim 63**, Richards teaches that if the delete option index is equal to two, then the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the first and last column of the selected range. If the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted in process block (Column 82, lines 21 – 28), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record includes comparing a column number of the spreadsheet file cell to a column value range of the first grid record.**

10. **Regarding dependent claim 64**, Richards teaches that if the delete option index is equal to two, then the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the first and last column of the selected range. If the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted in process block (Column 82, lines 21 – 28), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record includes comparing a column number of the spreadsheet file cell to a column value range of the second grid record.**

11. **Regarding dependent claim 65**, Richards teaches that a series of decision blocks are used to test the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address compared to the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells (Column 82, lines 10 – 12), which meet the limitation of **the cell data location information indicates the location of cell data in the cell data record**, since **cell data location information** is equivalent to “the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address”.

12. **Regarding dependent claim 68**, Richards teaches that the delete option index is evaluated. In each case, the operation of FIG. 28G will be executed, however, the parameters passed to that operation will vary depending upon the user's selection as indicated by the delete option index. When the index is equal to a value of one in decision block 2863, the execution block 2865 passes a zero value for the row offset and the negative value of the column offset to the operation (Column 81, lines 40 – 47),

which meet the limitation of **the cell data location information indicates a value of zero if the spreadsheet file cell is empty.**

13. **Regarding claims 70 – 75, and 78, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 60 – 65, and 68, and are rejected along the same rationale.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 66, 67, 69, 76, 77 and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards (US 6292810 B1) as applied to claims 60, 65, 70 and 75 above and in further view of Horie et al. (US 6487597 B1).

16. **Regarding dependent claims 66 and 67, Richards does not explicitly teach the cell data location information is a 16 bit matrix nor the first 10 bits of the 16 bit matrix indicate the cell data record containing the cell data, and the last 6 bits of the 16 bit matrix indicated the location of the cell data within the cell data record.**

Horie et al. teach that storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data (for example, n=20) as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, transmitting the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 16 – 20), which meet the limitation of **the cell**

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data location information is a 16 bit matrix and the first 10 bits of the 16 bit matrix indicate the cell data record containing the cell data, and the last 6 bits of the 16 bit matrix indicated the location of the cell data within the cell data record, since a matrix is an array of rows and columns and Horie et al. further teach that FIG. 20B an example of a list of spreadsheets "after data transfer", in which a character string (for "maker") within the head cell (column A, row 1) in the selected range in FIG. 19 is additionally displayed as a title (Column 11, lines 20 – 24). Horie et al. discloses using "n" characters, which the skilled artisan would have been well aware could therefore be 16 bits.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Richards with that of Horie et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Richards with the benefit of a way to transmit only a desired portion of data in an information transmission apparatus (personal computer or the like) in a simple operation to a personal digital assistant (Column 2, lines 24 – 26).

17. Regarding dependent claim 69, Richards does not explicitly teach the data processing apparatus is a personal digital assistant.

Horie et al. teach that storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data (for example, n=20) as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, transmitting

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the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 16 – 20), which meet the limitation of **the data processing apparatus is a personal digital assistant**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Richards with that of Horie et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Richards with the benefit of a way to transmit only a desired portion of data in an information transmission apparatus (personal computer or the like) in a simple operation to a personal digital assistant (Column 2, lines 24 – 26).

18. **Regarding claims 70 – 79**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 60 – 69, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 60 – 79 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4091. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NH


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